(b) The steps being taken to boost the export of cigarettes mainly are:

(i) grant of cash compensatory support;

(ii) persuading bilateral trading countries to import larger quantities of cigarettes;

(iii) exploring the possibilities for increasing exports during the visit of delegation to thrust markets; and

(iv) grant of import replenishment licence for import of packing material.

(c) State agencies are not involved in export of cigarettes. Export of cigarettes to USSR are in accordance with the trade agreement with that country.

Export of Mica

249. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the export earnings on mica during the last three years, yearwise and what are the names of the importing countries;

(b) what is the role of Mica Trading Corporation in mica export and whether the Corporation is directly exporting mica or it is being exported through some private agents; and

(c) what steps are being taken to augment mica export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Export earnings from mica and mica products during the last three years are estmated as under:

(Value in Rs. crores

Year	Value of Exports
1986-87 . . .	31.61
1987-88 . . .	47.06
1988-89 . . .	42.47

Major importers of Indian Mica are U.S.S.R., USA, Belgium, Japan, GDR and Poland.

(b) Mica Trading Corporation has the objectives of maximising the unit value realisation from export of mica and progressively increasing export of fabricated mica and mica products.

The Corporation is directly exporting both processed mica and mica products from its own sources. Besides, it also allows the private exporters to export on its behalf as selling agents of MITCO.

(c) Steps to promote export of mica include abolition of export duty on mica and mica products except mica scrap, survey of mica mines to assess the causes of closure and take remedial measures, sales promotion tours and participation in international trade fairs, setting up of units for manufacture of value added mica products, etc.

Forest area

250. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of forest area in the total geographical area of each State at present;

(b) what steps are being taken by the Central Government to increase the forest area; and

(c) what incentives are offered by the Central Government to improve the forest area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON) : (a) Details regarding State/UT-wise percentage of forest area to total geographical area are gaiven in the Statement attached. (*See* below)

(b) A massive programme of afforestation and tree planting on all degraded and denuded lands in the country is being implemented as a part of the 20ePoint Programme in order to increase tree cover.

(c) The following incentives are proposed to be given in the new National Forest Police:—

(i) Technical assistance and other inputs are being provided by Govt. for the development of tree crops and fodder resources on degraded village and community lands.

(ii) Share in the revenues generted through such programmes is proposed to be given to village Panchayats where lands are vested in the

(iii) Vesting of certain ownership rights on trees to individuals, particularly of weaker sections are also considered subject to certain regulations.

(iv) Beneficiaries are also entitled to usufruct rights so that they become responsible for the security and maintenance of the trees planted.

Statement

Forest area—1985-86

S. No.	States/UTs	Geographical area ('000 ha)	Forest area ('000 ha)	% of Forest area to Geographic al area
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	27510	6377	23.2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	8370	5154	61.6
3	Assam	7840	3071	39.2
4	Bihar	17390	2923	16.8
5	Goa, Daman & Diu	380	125	32.9
6	Gujarat	19600	1932	9.8
7	Haryana	4420	170	3.8
8	Himachal Pradesh	5570	2133	38.3
9	Jammu & Kashmir	22220	2018	9.4
10	Karnataka	19180	3865	20.1

1	2	3	4	5
11	Kerala	3890	1122	28.8
12	Madhya Pradesh	44340	15541	35.1
13	Maharashtra	30770	6416	20.8
14	Manipur	2230	1515	68.0
15	Meghalaya	2240	851	38.0
16	Mizoram	2110	1594	75.5
17	Nagaland	1660	863	52.0
18	Orissa	15570	5956	38.2
19	Punjab	5040	282	5.6
20	Rajasthan	34220	3129	9.1
21	Sikkim	710	265	37.3
22	Tamil Nadu	13010	2238	17.2
23	Tripura	1050	630	60.0
24	Uttar Pradesh	29440	5134	17.4
25	West Bengal	8880	1188	18.4
26	A & N Island	830	717	86.4
27	Chandigarh	10	..	..
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	50	021	41.2
29	Delhi	150	..	..
30	Lakshadeep	3	..	..
31	Pondicherry	50	..	..
	TOTAL:	328733	75230	22.9

Appointment of Special Magistrates by CBDT to deal with Income Tax Cases

251. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes proposes to appoint special magistrates to deal with income-tax cases;

(b) if so, what is the response of State Governments in this regard; and

(c) how many cases of income tax evasion are at present pending in various courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) There is no proposal for appointment of special magistrates to deal with income-tax cases. However, special courts for trial of economic offences including income-tax cases have already been established in some of the States and Union Territories.